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Question 1 - What are the key issues facing the NSW waste system?

The current crisis facing recycling and the real potential to disengage the community, who, if disengaged are unlikely to return if/when times improve. The increasing levy costs that contribute to the community making poor disposal conditions i.e. illegal dumping. Whilst the levy theory is acknowledged the real impact upon community/residents when disposing is viewed in "real money" and the impact on family budget. Clearer accountability around the levy collected and reinvested back into waste management is required to demonstrate the Government's commitment to reduce, recycle, reuse. The "producer responsibility" approach should be enhanced to place end of life responsibility upon the manufacture to take back, recycle and reuse. In the consumerism age products/materials have short life span and result in increased waste production

Question 2 - What are the main barriers to improving the NSW waste system?

Lack of on-shore processing (& manufacturing) opportunities Approval turnaround time for materials that can/should be reintroduced via circular economy approach - often there are examples in others states of reuse

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Target reduction and/or ban of problematic wastes such as the increasing plastic stream that has very little uptake into recycling (can be problematic), is evidenced in enormous ocean pollution etc. These approaches would attract greater community buy in.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Greater education and understanding for the community around what can be recycled, where it goes and how it is being recycled/reused (what it's used for)

Question 5 - What are the main opportunities for improving the NSW waste system?

Greater re-investment of waste levy into infrastructure to provide processing opportunities (& jobs) on-shore Greater demonstration by all levels of Government of reuse/circular economy i.e. would be good if glass or plastic pavement was used in the large infrastructure projects (roads/tunnels) currently underway in Sydney and was able to provide estimate of how much was used i.e. tonnes/bottles

Question 6 - Any other information that you would like to contribute to the waste strategy initiative?

A whole of Government approach needs to be displayed and clear that Federal - State - Local all are committed and playing their part working toward a common and shared outcome. As a member that works within the industry I often wonder if we are all bating for the same team/outcome.